



HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK CUSD #429

Cultivating our future

PRESS PLUS ISSUE 118 Executive Summary

Several policies were impacted with minor changes including title change or footnote changes. These do not require Board action: 4:15 (*Identity Protection*), 4:80 (*Accounting & Audits*), 4:120 (*Food Service*), 5:20 (*Workplace Harassment Prohibited*), 5:60 (*Expenses*), 6:310 (*High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students*), 7:50 (*School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools*), 8:30 (*Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*)

Policy Changes Requiring Review	
Policy	Description of Change
2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure	The policy and footnotes have been updated to reflect the court decision in <i>State of Tennessee v. Cardona</i> , which overturned the 2024 Title IX rules and reinstated the 2020 regulations. Additionally, updates include changes from the amended Whistleblower Act, expanding legal protections for individuals who report wrongdoing. These updates support ongoing policy improvements and compliance.
4:15, Identity Protection	The policy was updated to align with new federal regulations that strengthen the protection of information under grant awards, including updated definitions for personally identifiable information (PII) and protected personally identifiable information (PPII) to ensure better data security and compliance.
5:100, Staff Development Program	Board Policy 5:100 was updated to align with new legal requirements, including the ESS Law, which mandates training for staff serving as resource persons and complaint resolvers for Article 26A students. It also now requires ongoing professional development for all personnel on student discipline laws and trauma-responsive learning environments. Additionally, the policy reflects the reinstatement of the 2020 Title IX regulations following a recent court decision. Minor footnote and reference updates were made for clarity and compliance.

6:150, Home and Hospital Instruction	Board Policy updated to reflect changes under the ESS Law (P.A. 102-466), effective July 1, 2025. The updated policy now requires home instruction for students who cannot attend school due to pregnancy-related conditions, parenting responsibilities tied to their child's health, or safety concerns related to domestic or sexual violence. Cross references and footnotes were revised accordingly.
6:235, Access to Electronic Networks	This update encourages school boards to consider adopting guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled tools in schools by adding an optional policy section. It also prompts boards to stay informed about student safety concerns related to social media, as highlighted by the U.S. Surgeon General. Footnotes were revised to support these additions and improve clarity.
7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities	<p>Policy 7:10 has been updated to reflect recent legal developments, including the court decision in <i>State of Tennessee v. Cardona</i>, which reinstated the 2020 Title IX regulations on sex discrimination. Under the reinstated 2020 Title IX regulations, a School Board’s responsibility is to ensure the district has clear, compliant policies and procedures in place for addressing sex discrimination and sexual harassment. This includes adopting the narrower definition of harassment, ensuring that formal complaints are handled through a process that includes due process protections (such as live hearings and cross-examination in postsecondary settings), and limiting the scope of Title IX to incidents that occur within the district’s educational programs or activities. The narrower definition of sexual harassment under the 2020 Title IX regulations is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“Unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the school’s education program or activity.”</p> <p>This definition is more limited than previous versions because it requires that the conduct be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Severe – serious in nature, ● Pervasive – occurring more than once or creating a hostile environment over time, ● Objectively offensive – judged to be offensive by a reasonable person, not just the individual experiencing it, and ● It must deny equal access to educational opportunities. <p>The Board must also ensure proper training for Title IX personnel, safeguard against retaliation, and uphold the rights of all parties involved while maintaining transparency and accountability in compliance efforts.</p> <p>Updates also align with the new ESS Law (effective July 1, 2025), requiring schools to support the full participation of students covered under Article 26A.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experiencing pregnancy or parenting responsibilities - Affected by domestic or sexual violence - With serious mental or behavioral health conditions - Who are highly mobile (e.g., foster care, homeless, migrant) - Involved in the juvenile justice system - Facing chronic absenteeism due to significant personal challenges
7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited	The policy and footnotes have been updated to reflect the court decision in <i>State of Tennessee v. Cardona</i> , which struck down the 2024 Title IX regulations and reinstated the 2020 rules. Additionally, legal and cross references were revised to align with the ESS Law (P.A. 102-466), effective July 1, 2025, to support ongoing improvements and compliance.
7:60, Residence	The policy has been updated to reflect the new ESS Law, effective July 1, 2025, which allows—but does not require—schools to permit interdistrict transfers for students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence. Additionally, footnotes have been revised for clarity and ongoing improvements.
7:70, Attendance and Truancy	The policy has been updated to incorporate the ESS Law changes, effective July 1, 2025, which expand the list of valid reasons for student absences. The policy and footnotes have also been revised for clarity and continuous improvement.
7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment	The policy is updated in response to <i>State of Tennessee v. Cardona</i> , striking down the 2024 Title IX sex discrimination regulations and restoring the 2020 Title IX regulations, and for continuous improvement. Continuous improvement updates are also made to the footnotes.
7:185, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited	The policy is updated in response to <i>State of Tennessee v. Cardona</i> , striking down the 2024 Title IX sex discrimination regulations and restoring the 2020 Title IX regulations
7:190, Student Behavior, 7:310, Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools, 7:315, Restrictions on Publications; High Schools	The policy and footnotes have been updated to include new legal definitions and requirements. This includes a definition of sexting criminalizing non-consensual sharing of explicit images, clarification of corporal punishment, limits on the use of reasonable force by school employees, and a new mandate for superintendents to annually report certain incidents involving firearms, drugs, and assaults on staff to the Illinois State Board of Education by July 31.
7:200, Suspension Procedures & 7:210, Expulsion Procedures	The policy has been updated to reflect a new law that, starting July 1, 2025, gives students the right to share any information that might explain or lessen their responsibility during suspension or expulsion hearings. It also ensures students can have a representative and a support person with them at these hearings.

7:250, Student Support Services	The policy has been updated to comply with a new law effective July 1, 2025, requiring schools to annually inform students age 12 and older that they can access counseling services without needing their parents' or guardians' permission. Additionally, each school building must designate at least one staff member to serve as a resource person to support students covered under Article 26A.
7:255, Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence	NEW PROPOSED POLICY: A new policy has been created to comply with the ESS Law effective July 1, 2025, requiring districts to have clear policies, procedures, and resources to support Article 26A students. This ensures these students receive the help they need to meet state education standards and successfully graduate.
7:270, Administering Medicines to Students	The policy has been updated to clarify that students can carry and manage their own supplies if allowed by their diabetes care or seizure action plans. Updates also reflect that schools no longer have to accept parental opt-out requests for administering undesignated medications. Additionally, licensed school social workers are now authorized to carry and give opioid overdose-reversing medication as part of their duties. Legal references were also updated to include the Seizure Smart School Act for ongoing improvements.
7:340, Student Records	The policy references have been updated to reflect new laws effective July 1, 2025, that limit when schools can share information about a student's status as a parent, expectant parent, or victim of domestic or sexual violence. Additionally, a student's temporary records must now include information related to these statuses and experiences, ensuring appropriate support and confidentiality.